

BOROUGH OF
MALDON



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
B.V. HASSAN
M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.,
including the
REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
RAYMOND A. HALLETT
F.A.P.H.I.,
for the year
1970

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1970

The Worshipful the Mayor
(Alderman C. Dowsett.)

CHAIRMAN	Councillor A.B.Williamson
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN	Alderman Mrs. M. T. Brown.
COUNCILLORS	K. Easter G. Hughes C. D. Richardson D. B. Sewell E. Sewell Mrs. R. Townsend

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE BOROUGH

TOWN CLERK AND SOLICITOR	K. C. Robertson.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH	B. V. Hassan, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., Rural District Council Offices, America Street, Maldon. Telephone Maldon: 2356.
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR	Raymond A. Hallett, F.A.P.H.I., Municipal Offices, Market Hill, Maldon. Telephone Maldon: 2226.



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To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Maldon.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting for your information the annual report of the health of the Borough for the year 1970. This has been compiled in accordance with the Public Health Officers Regulations 1959 and Circular 1/71 of the Department of Health and Social Security.

It is satisfactory to be able to put it on record that the general health of the residents of Maldon is good. No serious infectious diseases were reported and the incidence of measles, which reached mini-epidemic proportions in some other areas, was low. The total number of cases of whooping cough is too small for the raised incidence rate compared to the national rate to be significant. Finally, the outbreak of Infective Jaundice, mentioned in my last report, declined in 1970 and only six cases were notified.

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population was 13,260, an increase of 340 over the 1969 figure. This is a satisfactory growth rate of 2.63 per cent, though only one sixth of the total was due to an excess of births over deaths.

Live births totalled 239, exactly the same number as in 1969, and as a result there was a slightly lower adjusted birth rate per 1,000 population of 18.9. The figure for England and Wales for 1970 was 16.0.

Total deaths, at 183, were 19 fewer than in the previous year. The adjusted death rate per 1,000 population fell to 8.8 and compared favourably with the rate in the country as a whole of 11.7. The infant mortality rate was higher than in 1969 and was approximately the same as that for England and Wales. Once again it is satisfactory to be able to report that no woman died as a result of pregnancy or childbirth, including abortion.

A separate table is reproduced showing the causes of death according to the international classification, the figures for males and females being shown separately. Analysis shows that diseases of the heart and circulation, including strokes, accounted for 84 deaths or 46 per cent of the total. This is a slight reduction on the 1969 figure of 51 per cent. Cancer deaths amounted to 33 (18 per cent), again a reduction on the previous year (21 per cent). There were six deaths classified as accidental and three of these involved motor vehicles, but no suicides occurred. Just over 52 per cent of those dying during the year were aged 75 or over.

I would like to record my thanks to the Public Health Inspector and his Secretary for their unfailing help during the year; to the Chief Officers and staff of the other departments of the Council for their cooperation; and to my Secretary for her assistance during the year and particularly in the compilation of this report.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

B.V. HUSTAN, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O.D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

Figures in brackets relate to 1969.

General Data

Area (in acres)	6,653	(6,653)
No. of Houses (Mid year)	4,685	(4,543)
No. of Houses per acre (average)	0.704	(0.698)
No. of Persons per house "	2.83	(2.84)
Rateable Value	£580,190	(£544,914)
Product of a penny rate	£ 2,380	(£2,250)
General Rate in the pound (Dwelling houses only)	14/9	(13/7)

Population

Resident population (Registrar Generals mid year estimate)	13,260	(12,920)
Increase over previous year	340	(280)
Percentage increase	2.63	(2.2)
Natural increase (excess of births over deaths)	56	(37)
Increase due to immigration	284	(243)

BIRTHS

(a) Live Births

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Legitimate	114 (123)	116 (105)
Illegitimate	4 (4)	5 (7)
	118 (127)	121 (112)
Crude birth rate per 1,000 population	18.0	(18.5)
Adjusted birth rate " " "	18.9	(19.4)
Birth Rate England & Wales per 1,000 population	16.0	(16.3)
Ratio of adjusted birth rate to national rate	1.18	(1.19)
Illegitimate live births - % of total live births	4	(5)

(b) <u>Stillbirths</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Legitimate	- (2)	1 (-)
Illegitimate	1 (-)	2 (-)
	1 (2)	3 (-)

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total births 16 (8)

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 England & Wales 13 (13)

(c) <u>Total Births (Live & Still)</u>		
Legitimate	114 (125)	117 (105)
Illegitimate	5 (4)	7 (7)
	119 (129)	124 (112)

<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
(a) <u>All Ages</u>	88 (110)	95 (92)
	Total 183	(202)
Crude death rate per 1,000 population	13.8	(15.6)
Adjusted death rate per 1,000 population	8.8	(10.1)
England and Wales per 1,000 population	11.7	(11.9)
Ratio of adjusted Death Rate to National Rate	0.75	(0.85)

(b) <u>Deaths of Infants</u>		
(i) <u>Under one year of age (Infant deaths)</u>		
Legitimate	4 (1)	- (-)
Illegitimate	- (-)	- (-)
	Total 4 (1)	- (-)

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births 17 (4)

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births England and Wales 18 (18)

(ii) <u>Under four weeks of age (Neonatal deaths)</u>		
Legitimate	2 (1)	- (-)
Illegitimate	- (-)	- (-)
	Total 2 (1)	- (-)

Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births 8 (4)

Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births England and Wales 12 (12)



(iii) Under 1 week of age (Early neonatal deaths)

Legitimate	2	(1)	-	(-)
Illegitimate	-	(-)	-	(-)
Total	2	(1)	-	(-)

Early Neonatal Mortality rate
per 1,000 live births 8 (4)

Early Neonatal Mortality rate
per 1,000 live births England
and Wales 11 (10)

(iv) Perinatal mortality (Stillbirths and deaths under
one week of age combined)

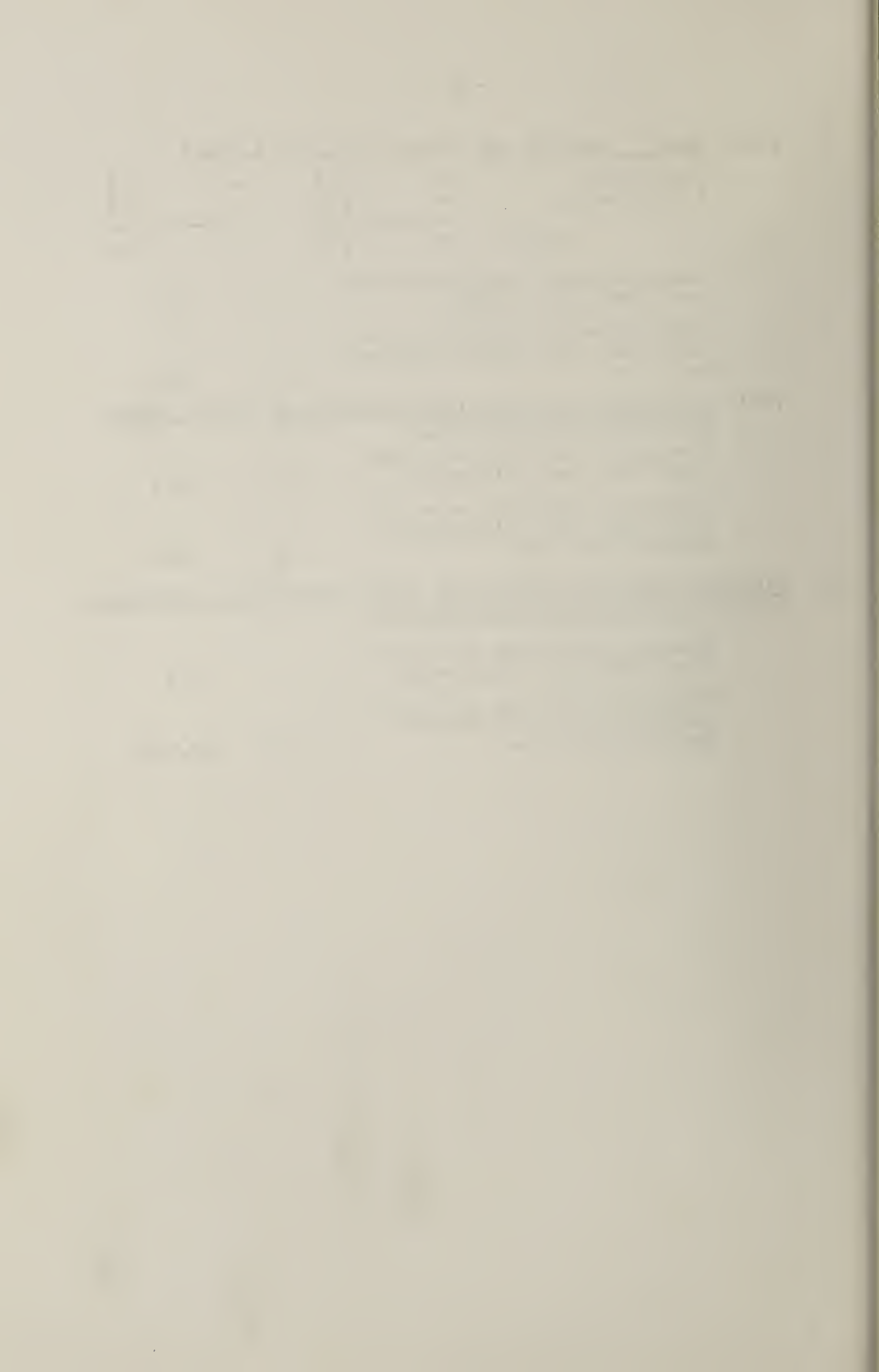
Perinatal mortality rate per
1,000 live and stillbirths 25 (12)

Perinatal mortality rate per
1,000 live and stillbirths,
England and Wales 23 (23)

(c) Maternal mortality (deaths of women ascribed to pregnancy
or childbirth, including abortion).

Maternal mortality rate per
1,000 live and stillbirths - (-)

Maternal mortality rate per
1,000 live and stillbirths
England and Wales 0.18 (0.19)



COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Notifications according to age groups							Incidence rate per 10,000 population	
Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 and over	Total	Maldon M.B.	England & Wales
Measles	7	13	1	-	-	21	15.8	62.7
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.2
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.7
Whooping Cough	1	3	8	1	-	13	9.8	3.4
Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	-	4	6	4.5	4.4
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.9
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0014
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.04
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.03
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.5
Leptospirosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.006

CAUSES OF DEATH

		<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>		<u>Total</u>
B.6(1)	Late effects of Respiratory T.B.	1	(-)	-	(-)	1 (-)
B.19(3)	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	(4)	-	(3)	1 (7)
B.19(4)	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	3	(6)	4	(5)	7 (11)
B.19(6)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	5	(11)	3	(2)	8 (13)
B.19(7)	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	(-)	3	(3)	3 (3)
B.19(8)	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	(-)	2	(1)	2 (1)
B.19(9)	Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	2	(2)	-	(-)	2 (2)
B.19(10)	Leukaemia	1	(-)	2	(-)	3 (-)
B.19(11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	3	(-)	4	(4)	7 (4)
B.20	Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	1	(1)	-	(-)	1 (1)
B.21	Diabetes Mellitus	1	(1)	2	(-)	3 (1)
B.46(1)	Other Endocrine Diseases	1	(-)	-	(-)	1 (-)
B.46(3)	Mental Disorders	1	(-)	-	(1)	1 (1)
B.46(5)	Other Diseases of Nervous System	1	(2)	2	(2)	3 (4)
B.28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	21	(33)	9	(21)	30 (54)
B.29	Other forms of Heart Disease	2	(2)	4	(2)	6 (4)
B.30	Cerebrovascular Disease	8	(17)	31	(21)	39 (38)
B.46(6)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	4	(4)	5	(2)	9 (6)
B.31	Influenza	2	(-)	3	(1)	5 (1)
B.32	Pneumonia	16	(8)	14	(8)	30 (16)
B.33(1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	1	(5)	-	(1)	1 (6)
B.46(7)	Other Diseases of Respiratory system	1	(2)	1	(1)	2 (3)
B.34	Peptic Ulcer	1	(1)	-	(1)	1 (2)
B.36	Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	(-)	-	(-)	1 (-)
B.46(8)	Other Diseases of Digestive System	-	(1)	1	(-)	1 (1)
B.39	Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	(-)	-	(-)	2 (-)
B.46(9)	Other Diseases, Genito Urinary System	-	(2)	1	(2)	1 (4)
B.46(11)	Diseases of Musculo Skeletal System	1	(-)	1	(1)	2 (1)
B.42	Congenital Anomalies	1	(-)	-	(-)	1 (-)
B.45	Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	1	(1)	2	(5)	3 (6)
BE.47	Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	(-)	-	(1)	3 (1)
BE.48	All other accidents	2	(1)	1	(1)	3 (2)
	Total All Causes	88	(110)	95	(92)	183 (202)

WATER SUPPLY

During the year 199 million gallons of water were supplied by the Council partly from boreholes within the borough and partly by purchase from a neighbouring water company. A piped supply is available for every property.

The quality is regularly checked by chemical and bacteriological analysis and was found to be consistently high during the year. No serious restriction of supply had to be imposed, but the situation will be even better when the new million gallon reservoir is completed.

REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is the twentieth year for which I have prepared a report for the Council and I find that the pattern of the work although basically the same, has changed in emphasis very much in that period of time.

The report for 1951 is devoted very largely to matters concerned with elementary drainage and sewerage, night soil disposal and the elimination of unfit housing. The year under review has been occupied with work in connection with planning considerations affecting the well being and health of the community, nuisances arising from noise and a much greater concern for a satisfactory standard of food quality. The following paragraphs give details of various aspects of work undertaken.

General Sanitation

The number of all the various inspections and visits made during the year are set out on pages 14 and 15

The total of 1964 which shows a small increase as compared with the total for 1969, indicates a welcome trend, much of the additional work was occasioned by a substantial increase in the number of formal complaints to a total of 210 as compared with 146 for the previous year.

Public Health Acts

No problems of any consequence have arisen during the year. There is a continued need for inspection and vigilance to eliminate nuisances and remedy causes for complaint. Much of this work arises from routine inspections and observations noted during daily surveillance of the borough.

It is still possible to find the thoroughly dirty and neglected house and only by continuous pressure and advisory education can these conditions be improved.

Housing Acts

Continued quiet progress in the general field of housing administration. During the year three individually unfit houses were represented and action finalised to secure their closure.

There was some slowing down in the time necessary to rehouse tenants from unfit properties, but this was only temporary.

First results of work under the 1969 Act and the issue of Qualification Certificates seem to indicate that the already fit houses are substantially the only properties affected.

Continued.....

It is important that where such certificates are sought, the condition of the house should be most carefully scrutinised in order that every item of disrepair is required to be properly completed before a certificate is granted. Any failure to require a comprehensive reconditioning can only result in the tenant lodging a complaint or objection and give rise to recrimination between the owner, the tenant and the Council.

Houses in Multiple Occupation

One large premises in multiple occupation was represented as unfit and it was subsequently agreed that it should be closed as unfit. This property involved five separate tenancies.

Drainage & Sewerage

By the end of the year the number of properties not connected to the main sewers was reduced to a minimum, the few remaining premises being outside the reach of the sewers due to their situation in respect of levels.

The Osea Road Sewage works were undergoing certain modifications to accommodate increased throughput and also to attain the standard of effluent suitable to be discharged into the River Blackwater.

Refuse Collection & Disposal

This service is under the control of the Borough Engineer.

Further properties were brought within the paper sack system of collection and this has proved to be entirely satisfactory.

Difficulties as to tipping facilities have continued, the main problem being lack of adequate land for this purpose.

Noise

The nuisance from noise is becoming much more a matter of concern to the general public and as a consequence more complaints were received in respect of this hazard to health.

In a town such as Maldon with a volume of through traffic the nuisance from vehicular noise is serious. Improved maintenance of vehicles would produce some alleviation of these conditions, but a by-pass for all heavy traffic is the only practical long term solution to the problem.

If all heavy traffic is kept out of the town centre, tolerable noise levels can be attained.

Rodent Control

This work is undertaken for the Council by a Commercial Company under contract and the service is quite satisfactory.

All private dwellings are treated free of charge and during the year ninety seven premises were treated.

Insect Pests

Ants and wasps were the most frequent cause of complaint from householders.

Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act 1963

Routine work under this Act continued throughout the year and wherever plans for alterations or reconstruction of business premises are proposed, discussion with the developer provides for compliance with the requirements of this Act.

Very few accidents to employees are reported and I am of the opinion that many more accidents occur, which go unreported.

Inspection & Supervision of Food.

Food Hygiene

The promotion of high standards of food hygiene is a continuous process. It involves frequent visits to food premises; repeated instruction of staff and employers and vigilance as to operating conditions.

All this work is very time consuming and once again the only comment is that insufficient time has been devoted to this essential work during the past year.

General Food Premises

(a) The following is a list of various food premises in the Borough. This town serves as a shopping centre for a large Rural Area and in consequence the number of shops is large in proportion to the population.

Bakers	8
Butchers	10
Catering premises and canteens	31
Confectioners	9
Fish Shops	6
Greengrocers	8
Grocers and General Stores	33
Public Houses, Hotels and Clubs	27

(b) There are 9 premises in the Borough which come within the provisions of Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

(c) Inspections of food premises are concentrated on those trades where unwrapped food is handled. Many of the smaller shops deal almost exclusively in wrapped goods, and therefore attention can be less regular.

I am of the opinion that every food premises should be inspected on average, at least 4 times a year. This means approximately 600 inspections per annum, and at the present time this goal is far from attained.

(d) Most of the food which is condemned as being unfit is of the tinned or bottled variety and is disposed of by burial at the refuse tip.

(e) Food Sampling

The submission of samples of uncooked and cooked meat and other products has been undertaken for some time with satisfactory results.

In 1970, 47 samples of various types of the most suspect foods were submitted for analysis. None of these were found to be unsatisfactory.

Eleven complaints from customers were made concerning the fitness of various foods, most of which concerned foreign bodies in the food. Detailed investigations were made and appropriate action taken.

Milk and Dairies administration

The number of premises used as cow sheds and dairies in the Borough are as follows:-

Wholesale Producers	5
Retail Purveyors	}
Pasteurised Milk Dealers	
	23

Frequent inspections are made to all premises retailing milk and these have been kept in a satisfactory condition.

Ice Cream

The number of persons and premises registered under the provisions of the Essex County Council Act, 1933 is as follows:

Vendors only	57
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During the year, the number of samples taken was nine only. All these samples were submitted for examination by the Methylene Blue Reduction test and the results are as below:-

Grade	I	3
Grade	II	1
Grade	III	4
Grade	IV	1

Meat and Other Foods

There are no slaughterhouses within the Borough.

Very infrequent inspections of carcase meat are undertaken at Butcher's premises. A small quantity of unsound meat was discovered as reported hereunder.

Tinned foods are controlled very satisfactorily, voluntary surrender being used to deal with unfit consignments. The following is a summary of the various items disposed of in this way:-

Beef	42 lbs.	Canned Tongue	12 lbs.
Collar Bacon	18 lbs.	Jellied Veal	6 lbs.
Lambs Livers	10 lbs.	Luncheon Meat	10 lbs.
Frozen Packs	487 lbs	Corned Beef	12 lbs.
Sundry tins, jars and packs	2226 lbs	Canned Ham	48 lbs.
		Fresh Fish	73 lbs.

Registration of Food Hawkers.

The provisions of the Essex County Council Act, 1952 have not caused any problems. These provisions are not used frequently, but at the same time they do serve a useful purpose.

Adulteration.

The Essex County Council are responsible for the administration of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, in respect of food adulteration. Close contact is maintained with the County Council Staff and this results in satisfactory supervision.

Staff

Mrs. Wearmouth continued to assist me most ably with the Secretarial work of the department throughout the year. I also wish to express my thanks to the Medical Officer of Health and the other Officers of the Council for their support and co-operation throughout the year.

In February the Council accepted an oft repeated recommendation and agreed to the appointment of an Additional Public Health Inspector. At the end of the year it had not been possible to fill this vacancy.

I have the honour to be,
Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. A. Hallett.

Public Health Inspector.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND NOTICES

INSPECTIONS	No.	IN- FORMAL NOTICES	FORMAL NOTICES	TOTAL COMP- LIED WITH	OUTSTANDING AT END OF YEAR INFORMAL-FORMAL	
Miscellaneous	152	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Housing Act Inspections</u>						
(a) Overcrowding	2					
(b) Structural Defects	119	26	-	19	7	-
(c) Re-inspection	192					
<u>Public Health Acts</u>						
(a) Nuisances - Houses	97	53	-	53	-	-
(b) Noise Complaints	46	9	-	9	-	-
(c) Animals	21	3	-	3	-	-
(d) Re-inspections	145	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Drainage (including nuisances)</u>						
(a) Drains	77	41	-	41	-	-
(b) Ditches	14	3	-	3	-	-
<u>Water Supply</u>						
(a) Sampling	34	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Inspection of same	13	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Food Premises</u>						
(a) Shops	98	29	-	29	-	-
(b) Ice Cream Premises	19	3	-	3	-	-
(c) Cafes etc.,	49	6	-	6	-	-
(d) Bakehouses	8	6	-	6	-	-
(e) Food samples taken	47	27	-	27	-	-
(f) Food complaints	11	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Licenced Premises</u>	7	2	-	2	-	-
<u>Offensive Accumulations</u>	2	1	-	1	-	-
<u>Rodent Control</u>	97	97	-	97	-	-
<u>Insect Pests</u>	14	8	-	8	-	-
TOTAL CARRIED FORWARD	1264	314	-	307	7	-

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND NOTICES

Carried Forward	1264	314	-	307	7	-
<u>Camping Ground and Moveable Dwellings</u>	58	9	-	9	-	-
<u>Disinfections</u>	3	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Swimming Pool</u>						
(a) Sampling	9	-	-	-	-	-
(b) General Inspections	29	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Infectious Diseases</u>	1	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Houseboats</u>	41	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act 1963.</u>	9	2	-	2	-	-
<u>Departmental Matters</u>						
(a) Dangerous Structures	3	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Sewers	11	5	-	5	-	-
(c) Refuse Collection and Disposal	30	4	-	4	-	-
<u>Clean Air Act</u>						
(a) Inspections made	19	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Milk and Dairies</u>						
(a) Retail premises	4	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Farms	2	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Meat Inspection at Shops</u>	6	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Port Health</u>						
Ships Inspected	10	-	-	-	-	-
Oyster Fishery						
(a) Inspections	32	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Samples	32	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL :	1563	334	-	327	7	-

Individual Unfit Houses

Name of Property	Date Of Order	No. of Houses Involved	No. of Houses Occupied	No. of Houses Vacant	No. of Houses Demolished	Undertakings Accepted.
Various addresses		12	-	9	3	
101, Cross Road, Maldon.		1	1	-	-	Undertaking not to let Sept. 1964.
62 & 64 High Street, Maldon		4	-	-	4	Demolished 1970
176, High Street, Maldon		1	-	-	1	Demolished 1970
10, Dyers Road, Maldon.		1	1	-	-	Undertaking accepted Jan. 1970.
2, Hillside, Market Hill.		1	5 (lettings)	-	-	Undertaking accepted June, 1970.
113/115 Wantz Road, Maldon		1	1	-	-	Undertaking accepted Dec. 1970.
27, Fullbridge		1	1			Undertaking accepted Dec. 1970.

PREScribed PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF FACTORIES ACT 1937/61

Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector.

Premises (1)	No. on Register (2)	Inspec- tions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sec. 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by the local authority.	6	2	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by local authority	71	16	3	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by local authority (excluding out-workers premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	77	18	3	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were				No. of cases in which prosecution was instituted
	Referred				
	Found	Remedied	to H.M. inspec- tor	by H.M. inspec- tor.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	2	2	-	-	-
Sanitary convenience (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	3	-	-	-

